

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 156

Calling for an environmental and social responsibility amendment to the
United States Constitution.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Calling for an environmental and social responsibility
amendment to the United States Constitution.

Whereas it has become settled law and Supreme Court precedent to regard corporations as the legal equivalent of individual persons, with many of the rights, liberties, and protections to which an individual person is entitled;

Whereas corporate persons, by virtue of their ability to create, allocate, and preserve wealth, have an advantage over individual persons in expressing political speech, including campaign contributions, and petitioning their government;

Whereas the United States, the Earth, and its inhabitants face significant dangers from environmentally destructive economic arrangements that derive short-term corporate profits at the expense of long-term, planetary damage;

Whereas the long-term prosperity of the United States and its people is interrelated and inextricable from the long-term sustainability of the Earth; and

Whereas civic, religious, and labor leaders in the United States believe an amendment to the Constitution is necessary to restore individual rights to their traditional supremacy over the rights of corporations and to ensure the long-term interests of the United States people and the world: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
 2 resentatives that, as articulated in the environmental and
 3 social responsibility amendment to the United States Con-
 4 stitution, the—

5 (1) Constitution of the United States should be
 6 amended to subordinate the political rights of cor-
 7 porations to the rights of individuals; and

8 (2) laws of the United States should be amend-
 9 ed to include a public Federal election campaign fi-
 10 nance system, a social and environmental responsi-
 11 bility education initiative, and a new Federal cor-
 12 porate charter statute to facilitate environmentally
 13 and socially responsible corporate practices.

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